

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 INRE-00

USIE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

NSCE-00 IOE-00 /098 W

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O 011408Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6822

INFO USUN IMMEDIATE 0495

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1575

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, GQ, IC

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA ITEM 25: GUAM

REF: A. USUN 5698, B. STATE 292206

1. SUMMARY: ICELAND WILL CONTINUE TO ABSTAIN ON GUAM RESOLUTION IN ABSENCE SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN SCANDANAVIAN VOTES ON ISSUE, SPECIFICALLY NORWAY. DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS ALSO INVOLVED.

2. ON RECEIPT REFTEL A NOVEMBER 30 AMBASSADOR URGENTLY REQUESTED MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY BJORNSSON ON GUAM RESOLUTION. DURING APPOINTMENT, WHICH BJORNSSON IMMEDIATELY GRANTED, AMBASSADOR STRESSED OBNOXIOUS CHARACTER OF RESOLUTION LANGUAGE AND SIGNIFICANT US SECURITY INTERESTS IN PACIFIC OCEAN AREA. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED COMMITTEE HAD APPARENTLY PULLED FAST SWITCH IN LANGUAGE AT INSTANCE IRAQIS, LIBYANS, AND CUBANS NOTWITHSTANDING EARLIER INDICATIONS Milder LANGUAGE WOULD BE DEVELOPED. IN CONCLUSION, AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT GUAM
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COULD HARDLY BE REGARDED AS QTE CLASSIC UNQTE EXAMPLE

OF COLONIALISM GIVEN RELATIONSHIP OF GUAM TO US.
HE THEREFORE ASKED WHETHER IN LIGHT SECURITY AND OTHER
CONSIDERATIONS GOI COULD INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION TO
VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION RATHER THAN ABSTAIN WHEN IT CAME
TO VOTE IN PLENARY. BJORNSSON, WHO LISTENED CAREFULLY,
SAID HE WOULD CONTACT FONMIN, WHO WOULD BE IN PARLIAMENT LATE
THAT AFTERNOON ON SUBJECT AND PROMISED TO REPORT RESULTS.

3. DEPTUTY PERM SEC HORDUR HELGASON, WHO IS ALSO CHIEF
OF FON MIN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, CALLED AMBASSADOR TO
MINISTRY THIS MORNING TO PROVIDE ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE
REPLY TO APPROACH. HELGASON STATED PROBLEM HAD BEEN
CONSIDERED LAST NIGHT AND AGAIN TODAY WITH MINISTER.
CONCLUSION WAS THAT UNLESS THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT
IN SCANDANAVIAN VOTE ON RESOLUTION, AND SPECIFICALLY
NORWAY, GOI COULD NOT SWITCH ITS VOTE LEST IT APPEAR TO
BE YIELDING TO US PRESSURE. HELGASON WENT ON TO NOTE
THAT ICELANDIC UN DELEGATION INCLUDES SVAVAR GESTSSON,
EDITOR OF THJODVILJINN WHICH IS PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE
DAILY PUBLISHED IN REYKJAVIK. GESTSSON HAD ALREADY
EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION IN ICELANDIC
DELEGATION MEETING. IF ICELAND SWITCHED VOTE RESULT
WOULD BE EDITORIAL ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING
YIELDED TO US PRESSURE AND ON US. THIS, HELGASON
SAID, WOULD NOT BE IN EITHER GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST.

4. IN REPLY, AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION GOI HAD GIVEN TO PROBLEM BUT
EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH GOI RESPONSE. RE POSSIBLE
THJODVILJINN CRITICISM OF US, HE NOTED THAT NO MATTER WHAT
USG DID IT COULD EXPECT ATTACKS FROM THAT QUARTER.
WHAT DID CONCERN US WAS WHETHER GOI ABSTENTION MEANT
GUAM WAS REGARDED AS STRICTLY AMERICAN PROBLEM
NOTWITHSTANDING CONTRIBUTION OUR MILITARY FACILITIES
THERE MADE TO INTERNATIONAL,
INCLUDING ALLIED, SECURITY. HELGASON STATED NO SUCH
MEANING SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO ICELANDIC ABSTENTION
WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS CONSISTENT WITH ICELAND'S TRADITIONAL
SUPPORT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR COLONIAL TERRITORIES.
AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT GUAMANIAN HAD FREELY CHOSEN
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THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO US WHICH THEY COULD ALSO
CHANGE IF THEY WISHED. THEREFORE, COLONIAL ISSUE IN
OUR VIEW DID NOT ARISE. IN REITERATING HIS DISAPPOINTMENT
THAT GOI COULD NOT SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO CHANGE ITS
VOTE, AMBASSADOR AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR REVIEW
OF QUESTION BY MINISTRY. HELGASON SAID HE WOULD BE IN
TOUCH WITH ICELANDIC DELEGATION LATER IN DAY, PRESUMABLY
BEFORE VOTE, AND ASKED WHETHER HE COULD HAVE AIDE-

MEMOIR ON SUBJECT. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO FURNISH ONE.
BLAKE

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